

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2069

ANSWERED ON:14.03.2017

Use of Stents

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Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of stent used/sold for angioplasty operations in the country during the last three years;
- (b) whether patients are charged inordinately high amount for the stent device and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has made it mandatory for hospitals, nursing homes and clinics to disclose separately the cost of the stent while billing a patient and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has decided to cap the price of life saving coronary stent at Rs. 30,000 and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the other steps taken by the Government to provide stents at affordable price to patients?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS, ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS AND SHIPPING (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA)

(a): A Sub Committee constituted under Core Committee of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to study the essentiality of coronary stents has assessed the number of coronary interventions during the last three years as follows:

Year 2013 2014 2015

Number of Coronary Interventions 201817 248152 353346

(b) & (d): National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) notified the ceiling price of Coronary Stents vide its notification dated 13th February 2017 at INR 7,260 for Bare Metal Stent and INR 29,600 for Drug Eluting Stents (DES) including metallic DES and Bioresorbable Vascular Scaffold (BVS)/ Biodegradable Stents. The average MRP before this notification was INR 45,100 for Bare Metal Stent (BMS) and INR 121,400 for Drug Eluting Stent (DES). Price regulation has brought down the prices of stents (BMS 74% and DES 85%).

(c): NPPA has directed hospitals to issue detailed bills to the patients, specifically and separately mentioning the cost of the Coronary Stent along with the brand name of the manufacturer/importer/batch number and other details. Non-compliance thereof will be treated as deliberate distortion of evidence alongwith charges of overpricing inviting prosecution under the Essential Commodities Act.

(e): Government through NPPA is closely monitoring the situation and has alerted the State Governments and State Drugs Controllers to monitor the availability of stents. NPPA has also requested aggrieved persons to send verifiable information / complaints on help line number of NPPA, through online complaint mechanism (Pharma Jan Samadhan) or on Whatsapp. Industry has been apprised that all manufactures / importers are under legal obligation to maintain smooth production and supply of coronary stents of all brands which were available in the country before price cap. All State Governments and State Drug Controllers have been advised to exercise the power of entry, search and seizure as per Para 30 of Drugs Price Control Order (DPCO),2013 if manufacturers/importers/distributors try to create artificial shortage of stents. Government/NPPA had two rounds of discussions with the Stent companies, which in turn have promised required level of availability.

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